

JESUS IS THE MESSAGE

ROMANS 1:2

D.B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

What is the Gospel? This is an important question. Gospel means news. What is it news about? It is about God's Son, Jesus of Nazareth. He is the message which the preacher has to bring, He is the one to whom the hearer has to respond. In His life he experienced what we experience; for example, physical tiredness and hunger, physical pain, sorrow at the death of His friends, sadness at the rejection of His message at Jerusalem. He showed concern for the welfare of His mother, compassion in the presence of sickness, and He exercised faith in the valley of the shadow of death. In all respects He was a true man, but He was more. A man who never yielded to what He knew to be wrong; a man who never broke fellowship with God through self-will. Not that He wasn't tested. He was tested and tried to the uttermost, yet He overcame every temptation, and was completely victorious over every sin and self-centredness, even in the extreme test of painful and unjust death. And so He became our sin-bearer and the ransom which secures our release. Because of His victory on the cross He has been raised and crowned as head of humanity by God. Now He ever lives as Lord and boss and governor of all things. He will be our judge in the future. He will reign over God's creation for ever, as its Lord, and we will reign with Him. God's purposes will be complete in Jesus.

Jesus is a true man and a perfect man, and supreme man: victor over sin and self-centredness. But there is more to be said than this. In Him, God entered into a new relationship with mankind, a relationship of a very intimate fellowship. In Jesus, God took our nature; for Jesus was Emmanuel, that is 'God with us'. In His essential personality Jesus is our divine Lord who for our sakes became man that we might share His eternal life through faith in Him. No wonder then that Jesus is the message that we have to bring. Jesus Himself, our Divine Saviour, who died and rose again for us, who reigns in heaven and who dwells in our hearts by His Spirit, He is the news which we bring our fellow men and women,

engrossed in selfishness and worldliness, with no possibility in themselves of avoiding the awful future that this involves. It is good news, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself; and He has given to us this message of reconciliation, namely that the one who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become acceptable to God, in Him.

Jesus is the content of the Gospel news and He must be the centre of our world-view. Any other view of the world which does not make Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us, the very centre in world history, is obviously wrong.

What is the Gospel? It is the news about Jesus. Have you believed the news? Renew your faith in Him.

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